



JUN - 4 1997

COMDTNOTE 10506

COMMANDANT NOTICE 10506

Cancelled: JUN 3, 1998

Subj: AIR TESTING BATTERY POCKETS ON AIDS TO NAVIGATION BUOYS

1. **PURPOSE.** This Notice describes the new policy concerning the air testing of battery pockets on lighted steel buoys by Aids to Navigation servicing units.
2. **ACTION.** District commanders shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this Notice.
3. **DIRECTIVES AFFECTED.** Commandant Instruction M16500.3A, Aids to Navigation Manual - Technical, will be amended to reflect the contents of this Notice.
4. **BACKGROUND.** Previous Coast Guard policy stated that whenever a buoy battery pocket was opened, a battery pocket air test was required before redeployment. Due to the equipment required for such a test this policy made it almost impossible for the Aids to Navigation Teams (ANTs) to recharge batteries while on station. The ANTs would have to temporarily "hotpack" the buoy and request that the primary servicing unit visit the buoy, recharge the battery, and perform the air test. Two trips were therefore required to correct a discrepant aid.
5. **DISCUSSION.**
 - a. Since conversion from the "V-band" and "bolted flange" pocket closures to the swing bolt arrangement, the water tight integrity of a battery pocket has increased significantly. With this increase in reliability, the air testing requirements have changed. The new policy is as follows:
 - (1) An air test shall be conducted on the battery pockets before a buoy is deployed at the start of its six-year cycle.

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- (2) When standard "6 swing bolt" or non-standard "12 swing bolt" battery pockets are opened on station during servicing visits, air tests on these pockets are not required. However, air tests may be performed at the Commanding Officer's discretion if on-station conditions warrant; for example, when buoys are frequently awash.
- (3) Buoys with V-band or bolted flange pocket closures shall be air tested after being opened. On a discrepancy visit to a buoy with V-band or bolted flange battery pocket closures, if the servicing unit is unable to perform the required air test, then the pocket shall not be opened. In this case, the buoy shall be "hotpacked."
- b. If repairs are performed on battery pocket closures (flanges, covers, swing bolts, etc.), an air test shall be performed before redeploying the buoy.
- c. Care shall be taken when tightening the swing bolts. Overtightening the swing bolts could crack the gasket, which would compromise the watertight integrity of the battery pockets.



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